A NEW MULTIFOCAL LENS

A lens known as the Cross Trifocal Lens will soon be offered to the medical profession. It claims two new principles of construction. The lens will give three fields of vision, and its arrangement is such that a monocentric principle is applied to all three focal powers.

The discovery of a monocentric principle as applied to ophthalmic lenses of more than two focal powers was made in 1907. The intervening years have been devoted to perfecting methods for the practical application of this discovery.

The arrangement of the Cross Trifocal Lens is unique, in that four intermediate areas occupy portions of the lens surface which in bifocals, through non-use, are practically wasted. The intermediate fields of the new lens are brought into use by a side glance or slight turn of the head. When not required, the intermediate areas are said to be out of the way; yet are always ready for instant use.

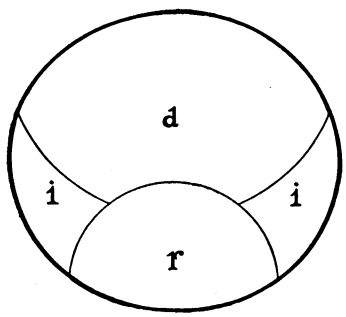

Figure 1.

In Figure 1, d represents the distance field of the new lens, which is made with the focal power required for the wearer's distance correction; r represents the reading field of the lens, which is made with the focal power required for the desired reading vision; ii represents the intermediate fields, which characterize the Cross Trifocal Lens. The focal power of the intermediate fields is midway between the powers of the distance and of the reading portions.

The inventor has suggested the following tests, in proving the monocentric principle of having one optical center that is good for far, near, and intermediate areas.

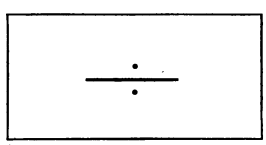

Figure 2.

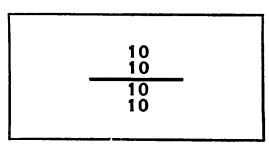

Figure 3.

Hold any bifocal lens about eight inches from the dots in Figure 2 or the 10s in Figure 3, and about eight inches from the eye (the other eye being closed). Have the top edge of the reading part of the bifocal so that it just reaches the line between the two dots or the line between the 10s. If the lens is bicentric for reading and distance, the prismatic displacement will cause the lower one of the two dots to disappear and the column of the 10s will not total correctly, for one or more of the 10s will disappear. Repeating this test with the Cross Trifocal Lens, both dots and all the 10s will be seen, for there is no displacement.

Place a bright coin on the floor and look at it from a distance of three or four feet through a pair of bifocal glasses as ordinarily worn. If the lenses are bicentric, the coin will appear double when the vision is just on the dividing line between distance and reading. Repeat this test with the new lens. Only one coin will be seen, and in its true position.

Cross Trifocal Lenses are co-centric for distance and reading. In looking at a letter through the dividing line between the two fields, the lower part of it may be magnified a trifle, but there is no gap, and no part is missing. In looking through Cross Trifocal Lenses at a step while descending or ascending a flight of stairs, the edge of each step is where it appears to be, for no displacement occurs.

By the use of the monocentric principle of lens construction, it is claimed that the Cross Trifocal Lenses are proof against eyestrain insofar as nonprismatic diplacements can prevent. They are said to eliminate what is commonly known as "jump of the image," that they require little, if any "breaking in," or "getting used to."

Yadil (Propaganda for Reform, reported by Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the A. M. A.)—This is an international fake of British origin. The advertising campaign for Yadil reminds one of Sanatogen in those palmy days when the public could be persuaded to pay a dollar for a few cents' worth of cottage cheese. As Sanatogen was the apothesis of cottage cheese, so Yadil is supposed to be a glorified and esoteric form of garlic. A part of the Yadil advertising campaign is an alleged history of garlic as a curative agent. Just what the theory of its use may be is not clear. Possibly the basic idea is that no self-respecting germ will want to tarry in an organism saturated with garlic. Yadil is put on the market by Clement & Johnson Bros. of London. The concern has a subsidiary company for its publicity, known as the Yadil Press, Limited (formerly called "Quality Press, Limited"). The American agents are E. Fougera & Co., New York. In the British Isles, newspapers and magazines are carrying full-page and middle-page spreads for Yadil for tuberculosis, for cancer, for scarlet fever, for gonorrhea, and for what-have-you. The British newspaper, The Daily Mail, which has refused Yadil advertising, published in its issue of July 22, an exposure of Yadil written by Sir William J. Pope, senior professor of chemistry in the University of Cambridge. Whereas, the manufacturers claim that Yadil is "Trimethanal Allylic Carbide," and declare that it is of entirely harmless vegetable origin, its active principle being natural essential oil of garlic, Professor Pope, after an analysis of Yadil, stated that (1) it is not "Trimethanal Allylic Carbide," (2) that it consists of about 1 per cent formaldehyd, 4 per cent of glycerin, 95 per cent of water, and a smell. According to Professor Pope, the smell can be closely imitated by adding to 100 tons of water one ounce of oil of garlic. He also discusses the testimonials both from physicians and from laymen, and shows the utter worthlessness of the testimony. In another article in The Daily Mail, Professor W. E. Dixon of the University of Cambridge emphasizes that the basic drug in Yadil is an irritant poison with cumulative effects, and characterizes some of the medical evidence for Yadil as nonsense.—Journal A. M. A.

More Misbranded Nostrums—The following products have been the subject of prosecution by the federal authorities charged with the enforcement of the Food and Drugs Act: De Witt's Kidney and Bladder Pills (E. C. De Witt & Co), consisting essentially of methylene blue, potassium nitrate and plant material, including a volatile oil, such as juniper oil. Foster's Backache Kidney Pills (Porto Rico Drug Co.), consisting of potassium nitrate, rosin, fenugreek, uva ursi, and an essential oil such as juniper. Glycofostina (Henry S. Wampole Co., Baltimore), consisting essentially of strychnin sulphate, sodium calcium and potassium glycerophosphate, alcohol and water.—Journal A. M. A.